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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose by reacting cellulose with an etherification agent, which comprises:

performing a first reaction by adding 0.5-4 moles of an alkali metal hydroxide per 1 mole of cellulose and agitating the mixture, adding 0.5-3 moles of an alkylene oxide per 1 mole of the cellulose and adding 20-95 wt% of alkyl halide with reference to the total amount of alkyl halide added through the first and second reactions; and

performing a second reaction by adding 1-4 moles of an alkali metal hydroxide per 1 mole of the cellulose, dispersing the mixture and then adding 5-80 wt% of an alkyl halide with reference to the total amount of alkyl halide added through the first and second reactions.

- 2. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed at 60-110 $^{\circ}$ C and said second reaction is performed at 70-120 $^{\circ}$ C.
- 3. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein said alkylene oxide has 2-5 carbon atoms in the alkylene group.
 - 4. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein said alkyl halide has 1-24 carbon atoms in the alkyl group.

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5. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein the efficiency of said alkylene oxide is 60-75 %.

6. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein the efficiency of said alkyl halide is 60-70 %.

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7. Hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose prepared by using a method according to any of Claims 1 to 6.